

Funding Futures

While Remembering the Past

BY BETTY LYNNE LEARY

Their reasons for giving are as varied as the individuals: to honor a friend, a colleague, a son. Yet a common thread of loyalty and commitment to the law school and to future generations of lawyers binds them as some of the school's most generous contributors.

Establishing a scholarship fund not only ensures that another student will enjoy the opportunity to attend law school, but also keeps alive the memory and spirit of some of the University's most special alumni. This story profiles six scholarships and the people who created them.

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— Stanley Levy

Isaac '38 and Catharine Hecht



The George W. White Jr. Scholarship Fund

George W. White Jr. '39 often spent summer weekends sitting at his roadside fruit stand selling pints of fresh peaches to passersby. His customers would be surprised to know that the unassuming vendor was once Spiro Agnew's counsel and played an integral role in many high-profile government cases.

"He was a man who, in spite of his successes, was very down-to-earth," says Jay Miller, a partner in the law firm White, Miller, Kenny and Vettori. "He never paid more than \$8 for a tie, and that's why juries loved him. He was a common man, and I respected and admired him for that."

Miller, along with partners John Kenny '70 and Paul Vettori '70, established the George W. White Jr. Memorial Scholarship Fund, along with a substantial donation from the Baltimore Chapter of the Optimist Club, in memory of White, who died in 1998. An active member of the Optimists, White held a bull roast each year to raise funds for the club's charitable projects. Miller notes that although the club is folding, the traditional bull roast will continue as a fundraiser for the scholarship.

"George founded this firm in 1946 and was a big believer in giving young people a shot," Miller explains. "He gave me my shot right out of law school, and we thought he'd be honored if we gave a bunch of law students a shot in his name. We wanted to honor his memory and let his name live on outside this firm."

The Andrew D. Levy Scholarship Fund

Stanley and Harriet Levy searched for a meaningful way to give thanks for their son's life. A first-year law student at the University of Maryland, Andrew Levy '82 contracted an illness that almost killed him. After eight months in the hospital, Levy recovered, and his parents, grateful for his second chance at life, gave thoughtful consideration to an appropriate tribute.

"We thought about a gift to the hospital, but it was Andy who suggested a gift to the law school," says the Hon. Stanley Levy, a retired administrative law judge for the federal government. Although then-Dean Michael Kelly said he wasn't aware of

any scholarship established for a current student, the Andrew D. Levy Scholarship Fund was created.

"My parents are big believers that the highest form of charity is that which gives someone else an opportunity," Andrew says. "They were adamant that the contribution help other people go to school who might not otherwise be able to attend." Levy is now a trial lawyer in private practice with Brown, Goldstein and Levy.

The Levys established a second scholarship in 1983 specifically for disabled students. As a result of Andrew's illness, he was left a paraplegic and must use a wheelchair.

"My parents thought that there was a need to provide money for those who, because of a disability, might have a difficult time raising money to go to school," Levy explains.

"This project is very close to our hearts," the elder Levy adds. "We get letters from recipients thanking us, and we feel very good about that."

The Hyman and Isidore Ginsberg Scholarship Fund

The Ginsberg brothers lived according to three deceptively simple tenets—honesty, ability and the willingness to work. Hyman Ginsberg '27 and Isidore Ginsberg '29 practiced law together in Baltimore for more than 50 years, earning the kind of reputation that validated their modest principles.

Hyman Ginsberg's daughter, Rhona, a third-generation Baltimorean, served as her father's and uncle's paralegal in their practice. She notes that her father wrote his first book while still in law school. Copyrighted in 1928, the book was titled *Equity Jurisprudence and Procedure in Maryland*. In addition to their thriving practice, the Ginsberg brothers also taught at the University of Baltimore for more than 50 years and wrote 19 legal tomes between them.

Ginsberg says that her father claimed it was "not enough to practice the law. You have to live it, because the law is always changing and it is a living thing." Ginsberg found that statement among her father's papers after he died in 1982.

"He left several trusts and told me exactly what to do with them," she says. According to Ginsberg's wishes, the law school benefited from his good will when Rhona created the Hyman and Isidore Ginsberg Scholarship Fund to honor her father and uncle.

"I am finishing my father's dreams and making them a reality," says Ginsberg. "I want his legacy to live forever."

The Isaac and Catharine Hecht Scholarship Fund

Isaac Hecht '38 was somewhat incredulous when his wife of 56 years asked him, "You don't really want anything for your birthday, do you?" He was, after all, turning 70 and one might expect something special for reaching that particular milestone.

"She told me that I'm always talking about the University of Maryland, so she thought it would be nice to establish a scholarship fund," Hecht explains. The Hechts asked their friends and



Stanley, Andrew '82 and Harriet Levy

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family to make donations to the scholarship fund in lieu of presents that year and the Isaac and Catharine Hecht Scholarship Fund was born.

"We made up the difference to get the fund started and we've been contributing annually ever since," Hecht says. In his 61st year of practicing, Hecht still goes to his downtown Baltimore office every day to engage in estate planning and administration, trust administration and corporate work.

Hecht, who was born in his grandmother's house in Baltimore, followed his father into the legal profession. He recalls working with his father right out of law school when he encountered a con-

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— Gerald Cooper

flict of law problem. After conducting his research, he called his conflicts professor to ask about discussing the case.

"His response was, 'Don't tell me you know enough to practice law,'" Hecht relates, laughing. Perhaps it is his dry sense of humor that motivates this 86-year-old attorney. Hecht insists that he doesn't practice law. "I know exactly what I'm doing."

The Bennett Gilbert Gaines Scholarship Fund

As Bennett Gilbert Gaines '73 struggled in the final stages of cancer, his friends and colleagues struggled as well, not only with the inevitable outcome they faced, but also with how to honor the attorney and the work he loved.

"We wanted to do something for him in his honor as opposed to doing something in his memory," explains Robert Manekin '73. In the final weeks of Gaines' life, his friends established the Bennett Gilbert Gaines Scholarship Fund as a tribute to a man who cared deeply for the law school and the legal profession.

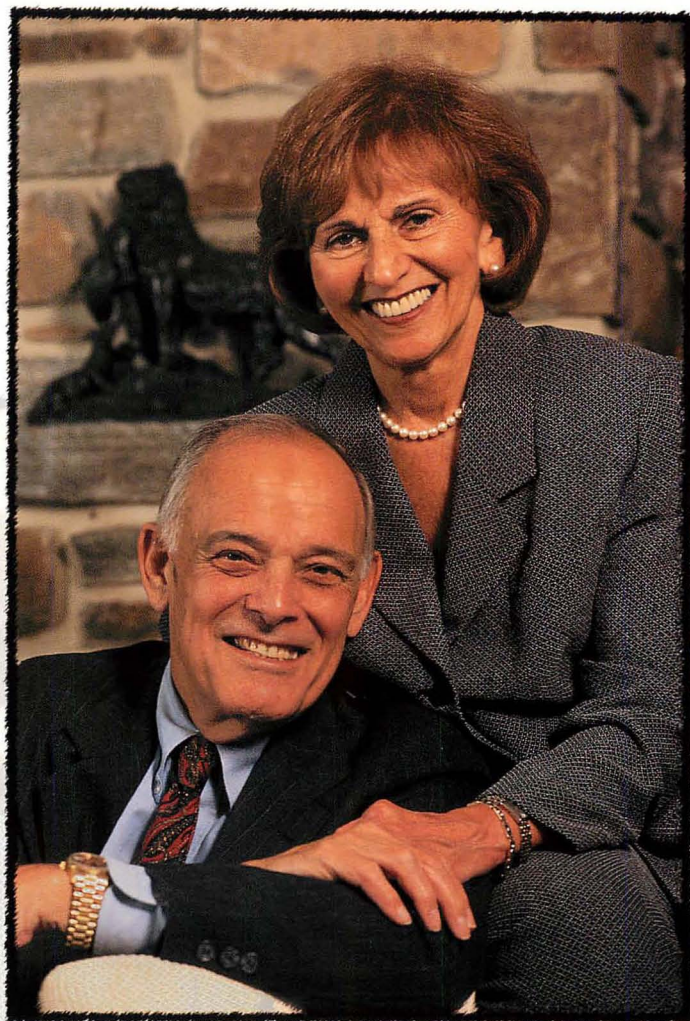
"Bennett loved law school," Manekin says. "He loved the intellectual challenge that law school and the legal profession presented. He thrived on those challenges." Manekin and Gaines were childhood friends who attended Pimlico Junior High and Hebrew school together. They remained close while attending different high schools and colleges and were reunited at the School of Law.

"We wanted Bennett to know that we respected what he accomplished and we wanted to do it in a context that was meaningful to him," Manekin notes. "I know that some of his most meaningful years were at the University of Maryland School of Law. He was absolutely aware of the scholarship and was grateful for it. It was a great way to show Bennett how many people genuinely cared for him and it made the last couple of weeks of his life more meaningful."

The Gerald and Phyllis Cooper Scholarship Fund

"When I was in law school, an education cost about \$150 a year," says Gerald Cooper '51. "It's a little more than that now, and law students can use as much help as they can get."

With these words, Cooper sums up his motivation for estab-



Gerald '51 and Phyllis Cooper

lishing the Gerald and Phyllis Cooper Scholarship Fund. He credits the law school with providing him a solid education that, in turn, allowed him to make a good living and live comfortably. He and his wife, Phyllis, plan to show their gratitude by sharing their good fortune with the next generation of students.

Cooper also has Uncle Sam to thank for his education. "I had the G.I. Bill," explains Cooper, who served for 24 months in the Army infantry during World War II. Shortly after his graduation from law school in 1951, he was called to serve his country again, this time in Korea.

"That was June 30, 1951 at 2:30 p.m.," Cooper says, recalling the moment vividly. He served four months in the infantry before transferring to the JAG corps where he put his new legal education to work. He served in Korea as defense counsel in 100 courts-martial over the next two years. Upon his return to Baltimore, Cooper established his practice specializing in workman's compensation, personal injury, domestic matters and asbestos litigation. **D**